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A Summer Tour-of-Study in Italy

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In 2002 Bridgewater State College embarked on a multi-faceted collaboration with the University of Florence, Italy, by signing an agreement to promote opportunities for students and faculty of the two institutions to participate in exchanges, research projects, and study-abroad courses. The agreement was the outgrowth of the efforts of Carla Sodini (Professor in the Dipartimento di Studi sullo Stato, University of

government of the city of Lucca, and to the warm and unofficial welcome extended to our students by the numerous Lucchesi involved in the conservation of historical sites and museums. The 2002 course, "Early Modern Walled Cities and the Gunpowder Revolution" was conducted, appropriately, in a space atop the historic walls at Lucca's International Center for the Study of early Modern Walled Cities (CISCU). This past summer

the course, "Society, Culture, and Material Life in Early Modern Italy," was held at the Agora, an historic convent and church converted into a state-of-the-art library and computer center. The course examined the social, cultural and material dimensions of life in the early modern Italian republics of Venice, Genoa and Lucca, and their surrounding countryside.

The lectures were sequenced to begin with a broad examination of politics and the rise of the early modern Italian territorial state, compared and contrasted with the late-medieval commune and Renaissance city-state. The course then moved on to an examination of Italian social, economic and cultural history across the social classes, genders and marginal populations in the cities and countryside

We would like to invite you into the program by introducing a sampling of only half of the professors who participated in the summer 2003 lecture series.

Marcello Verga is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Florence. Professor Verga concentrates on Tuscan history during the sixteenth century, and more broadly on the history of the Italian peninsula. He is a contributor to the scholarly journal, *Storica*, which is one of the most important publications in the field of historical bibliographical studies in Italy. Currently he is



Church of San Frediano

Florence) and myself, and of our shared interest in Renaissance and Early Modern Italian and European History. During the spring 2002 semester, we brought an international exhibit on early modern warfare to Bridgewater and we collaboratively design the syllabi and curriculum for the BSC-in-Lucca summer programs.

The Bridgewater in Lucca program is a three week summer study-abroad course open to BSC undergraduates and graduate students, and to university students and secondary school teachers from other educational institutions in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The 2002 and 2003 courses, hosted in the unique sixteenth-century walled city of Lucca in Tuscany, enjoyed great success, thanks largely to the formal participation of professors from the most important universities throughout Italy, to the generous official support of the

writing a book on the “idea of Europe” in Italian historiography from the eighteenth century to the present day. Professor Verga spoke precisely on this topic to the Bridgewater students, offering to the class an account of the difficult and complex road leading from the political divisions of the early modern period (the city states) toward a unified European identity.

Carla Sodini is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Florence. Professor Sodini (the BSC program’s indefatigable academic liaison and our most gracious host in Lucca) has published widely on a variety of aspects of Ancien Regime, or early modern Italy. Among the topics Professor Sodini deals with in her books and articles are the confessionalization and emigration of Italian Calvinists, the punishment of women accused as witches in Lucca, and the military history of Lucca and the Garfagnana, especially during the Thirty years War. Professor Sodini spoke in summer 2003 on “Poverty and

researched the Order of Saint Stephen, a chivalric military institution created by the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Cosimo I, in the sixteenth century. Professor Angiolini spoke about the social history of early modern Italy with special attention to the life and organization of confraternities and guilds. In his talk he stressed, as well, the difficult position of women in the public sphere.

Marino Viganó is Professor in the Art History Department of Catholic University, Milan. He is currently compiling an extensive bibliography on the military architects who redesigned cities and fortifications across early modern Europe. Professor Viganó, one of the students’ favorite professors, used archival images of maps and fortifications, and photographs he had taken in his travels throughout Europe, to illustrate the rise of early modern city and territorial states and their military struggles.



Verrucola

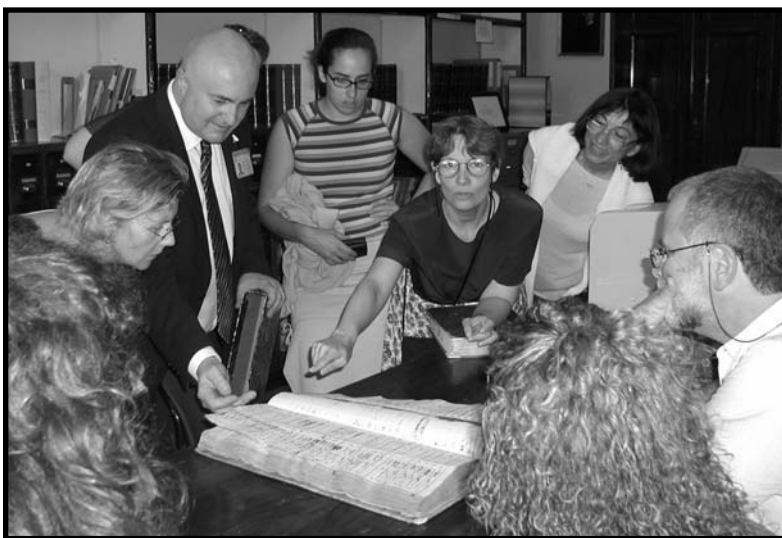
Marginality in Early Modern Italy and Europe.” Her lecture brought to light the plight of the poor in early modern Italy, and the efforts of lay and ecclesiastical authorities to discipline and succor those who found themselves on the margins of society, such as victims of famine and disease, prostitutes and vagabonds. Her talk also familiarized students with an array of books and articles written on the subject in English and Italian.

Franco Angiolini is Professor of History in the Department of Early Modern and Contemporary History, University of Pisa. Professor Angiolini’s interests rest in the study of the history of the Mediterranean region. More specifically, he has

Sergio Nelli is Vice Director of the State Archives in Lucca. Professor Nelli is *the* person to whom scholarly researchers turn when they have a question about Lucchese history and its sources because of his extensive knowledge of the rich archival holdings of the city that extend back to the eighth century. Professor Nelli, first, conducted a lesson that introduced students to the history of the conservation of documents and to how an Italian archive is organized and functions. He extended his classroom lecture with a walk through the city, during which he familiarized students with the locations connected with the history of the documents that have come to be conserved in the current state [read “national”]

archive. Second, and extraordinarily, he provided BSC faculty and students with an insider’s tour of the Archive.

Simonetta Adorni-Braccesi is an Independent scholar in Lucca. Professor Adorni-Braccesi holds a doctorate in History, and she has published the most important historical monograph on Lucca’s sixteenth-century Calvinist dissenters in Switzerland, France and else-



Above, Examining primary sources in the Archive. Below, Villa Torrigiani.

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